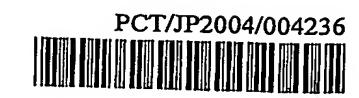


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

	(1 C1 Article 36 and Rule 70)			
Applicant's or agent's file reference BR-04024PCTJ	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416		
International application No. PCT/JP2004/004236	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 27 March 2003 (27.03.2003)		
International Patent Classification (IPC) or na B41J 21/00	tional classification and IPC	(27.03.2003)		
Applicant BRO	THER KOGYO KABUSHIKI KA	ISHA		
1. This report is the international prelim Authority under Article 35 and transn	inary examination report, established by the nitted to the applicant according to Article	nis International Preliminary Examining 36.		
 This REPORT consists of a total of This report is also accompanied by Al 	sheets, including this cover	r sheet.		
	o the International Bureau) a total of	sheets, as follows:		
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Box No. IV Lack of unity of i	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability Lack of unity of invention			
Box No. V Reasoned statement citations and expl	ent under Article 35(2) with regard to nove anations supporting such statement	elty, inventive step or industrial applicability;		
Box No. VI Certain document				
Box No. VII Certain defects in	the international application			
Box No. VIII Certain observation	ons on the international application			
Pate of submission of the demand	Date of completion o	f this report		
25 March 2004 (25.03.200		March 2005 (31.03.2005)		
ame and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer			
acsimile No.	Telephone No.			

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004236

With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. This report is based on treatsitions from the original language into the following language which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of international proliminary examination (under Rules 12.4)	This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of: international search (under Rules 12.2 and 23 1(b))	Box No. I	Basis of the report
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No. PCT/JP04/004236

Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YE
	Claims		
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		NO
	Claims	1-20	YE:
Industrial applicability (IA)	Çlaims	1-20	
	Claims	1-20	YES

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The subject matters of claims 1, 7, 13 and 20 are described in document 1 (paragraphs [0026], [0027] and [0042]-[0044]), and so do not appear to involve an inventive step.

The subject matters of claims 2, 3, 8, 9 and 14-17 have features wherein respective conditions for breakpoints described therein can be set variously; on the other hand, the above-mentioned document only describes "a breakpoint mark P". However, the constitution wherein it is possible to set such mark is a matter of design variation that a person skilled in the art could have made as required.

The feature described in claims 4, 10 and 18 wherein "the positional relationship in each line of characters on a print medium can be changed" is an obvious matter in the technical field of printers.

The feature described in claims 5, 11 and 19 wherein "characters or marks that the conditions for breakpoint themselves represent are printed on a label" is not described in the above-mentioned document; however, because such breakpoint marks themselves are input in a line of characters in succession with such marks, it is within the expectation of a person skilled in the art to print a line of characters together with breakpoint marks.

The feature described in claims 6 and 12 wherein "characters or marks that the conditions for breakpoints themselves represent are not printed on the said label" is merely a matter of separating the information input in a printing device into the pieces to be printed and those not to be printed.

Document 1: JP, 9-104135, A (Max Co., Ltd.), 22 April, 1997 (22.04.97), & EP, 000768611, A2, & US, 005833379, A2, & US, 005855441, A1, & US, 005871293, A